

SPIRITUAL PREACHING.

Phillips Brooks once said he was thankful he had never preached a "topic of the times" sermon. Undoubtedly the secret of his great power lay in this. He did not scatter his energies in discussing questions of little spiritual importance, but poured forth the power of his mighty soul in pure spirituality. Here and there a hearer may be attracted by a political or scientific sermon, but in the man the flavor is bad and results disappointingly.

It is said that the power of the clergy is declining, that it exercises less influence over the people than it did fifty years ago. All of which is true; taking a broad look at the profession, as a whole. But here and there one is seen who attracts great audiences and holds them by some unseen power, who sways his crowds of hearers at will and causes them to feel the invisible force which is the basis of his strength. Such a man has wonderful spirituality and possesses in a great degree Christ's personal power.

Deeper spirituality, a closer communion with the Holy Ghost and a more thorough mastery of the secret of spiritual force is needed. Only men of pure spiritual attainments and a comprehension of God's gifts to men are worthy to be ministers. The scientific and political lectures so often delivered as sermons, must once more give way to the spiritual discourse, because however much political and scientific discussions may be rending the thought of the world, over and beyond that is a spirit hungering and thirsting for the bread of life.

JUST SUITED FOR BOYS.

If a boy is a lover of Jesus he can't be a church officer or a preacher all at once, but he can be a godly boy, in a boy's way, and in a boy's place. He need not be too quiet, his mouth may be filled with laughter and singing because he is a true Christian. He ought to play like a real boy for exercise. But in all he ought to show the spirit of Christ, and be free from vulgarity and profanity. As a follower of Christ he will use no tobacco or intoxicating drinks. He ought to be peaceable, gentle, merciful and generous. He ought to discourage fighting, quarrelling and bad words or conduct. He ought to refuse to be a party to mischief, to persecution, to deceit. He ought to show his colors. He ought not be ashamed to say that he refuses to do something because it is wrong and wicked, or because he fears God or is a Christian. He ought to take no part in the ridicule of sacred things, but meet the ridicule of others with a bold statement that for the things of God he feels reverence and love.—*Selected.*

The license-voting Christian and the liquor-selling sinner are birds of a feather that flock together at the polls, on election day. The drunkard is their common prey, and the spoil of his house they divide between them.—*King's Highway.*

WOULD YOU?

Would you like to be somebody else? You would like to be as handsome as this person, as famous as that one, probably, or as rich as a third one. But on the whole, is there any one individual alive whom you would change with, you turning exactly into that person, exchanging all your drawbacks for his? No? We thought so. Well, then, don't grumble, but go on and do the best you can, making of your life the grandest structure you can with the tools at your command.

Do the thing that's nearest,
Though it's dull at times;
Helping when you meet them
Lame dogs over stiles.

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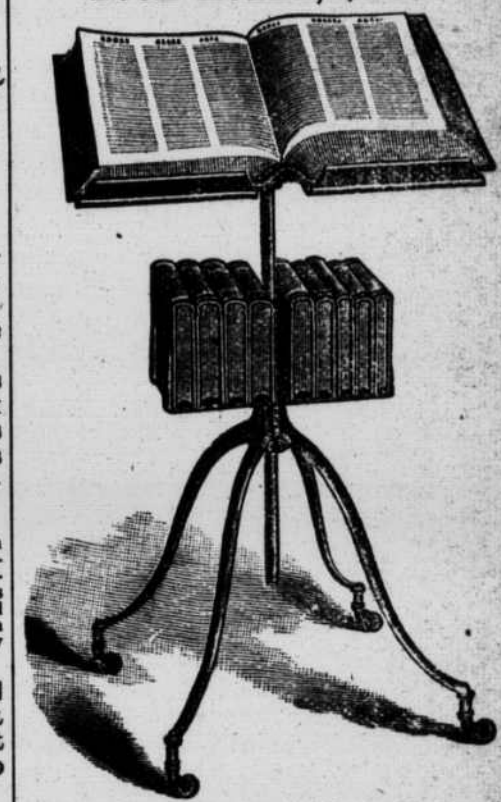
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